

Superintendent's Newsletter



Vol. 1, Issue 6, March 2017

"Give students something to do, not something to learn; and the doing is of such a nature as to demand thinking; learning naturally results."
— John Dewey

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Charles Grandson



Superintendent Dr. Charles Grandson visits classrooms at the Ferryway School.

"Story of Self, Story of Us, Story of Now"

This week I had the opportunity to share my story with the school committee and greater Malden community. When I visit Malden classrooms, I reflect on my days as a grade student in Washington DC public schools. As a district, our story is about the time being ripe to think and act bolder than ever before. Now is the time to challenge ourselves to new heights in providing Malden students with a world-class educational experience.

Recently, I had the pleasure of visiting a data meeting at the Ferryway School where a team of teachers met to review student performance task data related to math skills. The meeting was inspiring and further evidence of the strong instructional practices that are already imbedded in the work that our educators engage in daily.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy, despite all of the domestic and international challenges facing our nation, boldly chose to invest in ensuring that the U.S. was one of the first nations to successfully and safely go to the moon. He said:

"We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too."
-President John F. Kennedy, September 12, 1962, at Rice University, Houston, Texas

Our charge in Malden Public Schools is to provide Malden students with a "globally competitive educational opportunity." It's a charge we must be unwilling to postpone.

Thank you for all you do daily for our students!
Dr. Charles Grandson
Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent: Carol Keenan Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment:

- Per DESE, "...the Commonwealth's graduation rate has grown for the 10th consecutive year, and the annual dropout rate is the lowest it has been in more than three decades. Approximately 5,900 fewer students dropped out in 2015-16 than in 2006-7. In addition, the gains were greatest for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds over this period, thus substantially narrowing graduation rate gaps with their counterparts. Thank-you to everyone whose dedication made this possible!"
- A *Mastery Connect* teacher APP is now available for your iPhone.
- All *TeachPoint* evidence is due by the close of school on April 24. Please see your school's *TeachPoint* Leader for any guidance you may need with your evidence collection.
- As always, thanks for everything you do to make our students academically and socially successful.

Assistant Superintendent: Maura Johnson Student Support Services:

- The Malden SEPAC (Malden Special Needs Parents Advisory Council) invited all families to a Parent Workshop: Understanding My Child's Learning Style on Thursday, March 23rd, 2017, 6:30pm - 8pm, at the Forestdale School cafeteria.
- Four students from MHS Pathways program have been participating in the Advanced Manufacturing Program at Bunker Hill Community College. Students are majoring in electrical and mechanical fields, and upon program completion will be gainfully employed. Also, eight to ten MHS students will be participating in the Medical Clinical Assistant program at BHCC beginning in April 2017. Again, BHCC will assist with job placement upon completion.
- Reminder: Special Olympics, MacDonald Stadium, May 4th, 2017 at 9am. In addition to Malden athletes, we are hosting students from SEEM Collaborative, Reading, Wakefield, Medford, Melrose, Hamilton Wenham, Lynnfield, Winchester, and Stoneham School Districts.

Business Manager: Toni Mertz:

- Final purchase requisitions need to be submitted as soon as possible.
- All June 30th grants requisitions need to be sent to the business office as soon as possible.

Superintendent's Newsletter

Title I:



- BINGO for Books is going on in March. Every Thursday we have been at a different school having lots of fun and enjoying family time as we play BINGO for books. It just doesn't get any better than this.
- This month's Malden Families First, Title I's MATV show just completed its videotaping. The topic is Malden READS. The discussions are around the activities going on with Malden READS and how we are connecting this valuable program with our schools.

Literacy:



- We just finished reviewing students' Reading Street writing in grades K-5. WOW! What a fantastic difference the Reading Street's model has made on improving the quality of the students' writing. Students have better voice, complex sentence development, and just keep getting better and better. Great work teachers.
- In all the K-5 classrooms, we just completed Sense of Urgency meetings. This is where we check on the progress of students who are not reading at grade level. This is to make sure that students are getting the instruction that they need.

ELL:



English As a Second Language

- In-class tutoring has started at Malden High School. We welcome Jeff Thomas to the ESL department. He will be working in Math and ESL classes with our English learner students.
- Ms. Egan, Ms. Miller and Ms. Sheridan, ESL teachers at the Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy, have begun an after-school STEM enrichment program for English learners.

Humanities:



UNITED NATIONS

Ferryway, Forestdale, and MHS), best public speaking (Linden STEAM Academy and MHS), and best negotiators (MHS). Congrats to all students and staff!

- The MHS concert band played at Boston Symphony Hall this month, and both band and chorus will compete at MICCA in April.
- The 7th grade and MHS Model UN teams presented at Northeastern University. Awards won included best position paper (Salemwood), best delegation (Salemwood, Ferryway, Forestdale, and MHS), best public speaking (Linden STEAM Academy and MHS), and best negotiators (MHS).

Nursing and Health:



- We are presently having discussions and lessons on values, principles, respect, role models, and moral development. These discussions and lessons lead into working and talking about decision making and self-esteem. Being healthy includes all of these.
- Many of the mandated screenings are done at the elementary level. We continue to have new students entering at all grade levels, and the next session of sports at the MHS is starting so we are working with our school physician to do physicals for the students who need them.

STEM:



- Coaches are giving out Number Talks books to K-5 teachers following our last math academy. Number Talks are 5-15 minute activities that improve student math fluency.
- Several middle school math teachers are beginning a pilot of Gizmos math, an interactive web-based math program.

Technology Integration:



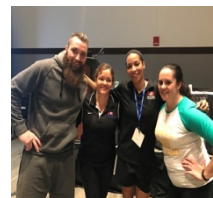
- Remember the dreaded research paper? Well technology might be changing that as high school students use electronic databases to learn how to locate and find credible sources to be used in their research paper. The end project looks a bit different too as students create podcasts and use web tools to showcase their final projects. By the end of senior year, students are creating some very interesting and informative research projects.
- In the elementary grades, technology is helping to engage students as active participants. Students use Chromebooks at the Forestdale School to cast or remotely display their work on a classroom projector and then use Google forms to write reflections on the results. Online immersive learning games are being used at the Linden Steam Academy. One program offers students the opportunity to work in teams unraveling complex problems and unlocking locked boxes that provide clues to the next step. The problems relate to many academic areas and provide a very engaging experience for learning.

Athletics:



- **Spring Sports!** Spring is right around the corner and the MHS Athletic Department is ready to go! The Greater Boston League has been dismantled and we are welcomed into a new league The Northeast Conference. The MHS Athletic Department will be competing in the following sports throughout the spring: Outdoor Track and Field, Girls and Boys Tennis, Girls and Boys Lacrosse, Crew (Co-ED), Softball, and Baseball.

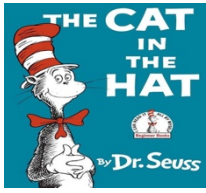
Physical Education:



- The MPS Physical Education Department just concluded its first off-site school funded professional development at the SHAPE Convention in Boston at the Hines Convention Center. The physical and health education department would like to thank the City of Malden for its generosity in funding a fun-filled educational professional development!

Superintendent's Newsletter

ELC:



• Earlier this month, our students and staff celebrated Dr. Seuss Week. Each day of the week, students participated in a special day based on a Dr. Seuss book including crazy hat day, crazy sock day, and crazy hair day. Classrooms also had guest readers to celebrate Read Across America.

- Thank you to our ELC families for attending the School Committee meeting earlier this month. The children presented their classroom posters about Being a Friend and Safe at School and sang the Friends At School poem. A good time was had by all!! Thanks for supporting the ELC.

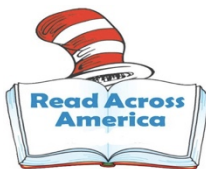
Beebe:



• Every year The Max Warburg Courage Curriculum Program has sixth graders throughout Massachusetts and different parts of the world write essays showing examples of courage that they have demonstrated. The essays are titled, "Courage in My Life." The winners have their work published in an anthology titled, The Courage of Children – Boston and Beyond. This year we congratulate two students from the Beebe School, Kaoutar Damia Wakaf and Haley Sousa, who have won and will be honored at a luncheon on Monday, May 15th, 2017 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel.

- The 4th grade is proud to present "Music is for Everyone"! This show covers a wide variety of musical genres from Blues to Rap - the 4th grade will share with you a bit of music history about each song, and will be singing songs in six different styles! They will also be playing recorder, which they learned in music class! You won't want to miss Music is for Everyone" so come join us!

Ferryway:



• On March 2nd 2017, Ferryway students from Grades K to 4 assembled in the gym to celebrate Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's birthday. Mr. Ciampa read Hop on Pop to 500 students who capped off the celebration by hopping on bubble wrap and popping all the bubbles. School Committee Member Catherine

Bordonaro played the part of The Cat in the Hat and several members of the PTO participated as well. Smiles were plentiful on students and staff.

- Ferryway 7th Grade students accompanied by Social Studies Teacher Megan Costa attended a Model UN conference at Northeastern University. The students were fascinated with the college campus and were challenged to work outside their comfort zone. The Ferryway students were praised for being well prepared and for their collaborative work with peers to create solutions for security.

Forestdale:



• On March 2nd, the Forestdale School celebrated Read Across America on Dr. Seuss' birthday by having celebrity readers come and read to our grade Kindergarten through grade 5 students.

• Forestdale's first grade took a trip to Boston Children's Theater in Beverly on March 16 to see the play "Curious George". The trip was a great success for our students as they were able to make connections to some countries they have been learning about in their classrooms, and to see a play like the ones they have been learning in their Reading Street curriculum.

Linden:



• Grade 7 and 8 participated in the Boston Celtics program on Financial Literacy at the TD Garden.

• Boston College Graduate Students and Converge Theater performed a play on Science.

Salemwood:



• On March 10th, our Gr. 8 students and their teachers went to the Frog Pond where many of them ice skated for the first time, but it wasn't only skating that they experienced. They discussed scientific topics such as velocity, friction, momentum, work, centrifugal forces.

- On March 10th in the evening Salemwood's PTO sponsored the second candy bingo night to raise funds for our students. It was a fun activity.

MHS:



• MHS' Play Production class put on the student written and performed "Hoboken, NJ". March 2017. One of the performances was at the Massachusetts Theater Celebration this past Saturday in Weston. Many of the actors received awards for their remarkable performances.

- MHS students and staff participated in the annual faculty/student basketball game with the students coming out on top in a close one. In addition to benefitting the Tornado Travelers Club and the Crew Team, proceeds this year also went to Griffin's Gift, a charity started by MHS House Principal Nathan Lamar.

School Committee:

Mayor Gary Christenson, Chairperson | Michael Drummey, Ward 1 | Emmanuel Marsh, Ward 2 | Lawrence Silverman, Ward 3 | Leonard Iovino, Vice Chair, Ward 4 | Tara M. Beardsley, Ward 5 | Jerry Leone, Ward 6 | Catherine Bordonaro, Ward 7 John Froio, Ward 8

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Charles Grandson